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SEP 30 2003 DJ
AT SEATTLE
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
DEPUTY

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

JOSEPH M. BAYNE, a single man,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE, a Municipal
Corporation, MICHELE G. LETIZIA
and JANE DOE LETIZIA, individually
and as a marital community, and
HAROLD W. DENTINGER and JANE
DOE DENTINGER, individually and as
a marital community.

Defendant.

Case No. **CV03 2948 p**

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
FEDERAL RIGHTS



03-CV-02948-CMP

COMES NOW JOSEPH M. Bayne, the Plaintiff herein, by and through his attorney, and allege
as follows:

I. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1.1 Plaintiff Joseph M. Bayne is a single man residing in Fall City in the County of
King in the State of Washington which is within the Western District of Washington.

1.2 The City of Seattle is a municipal corporation located within the Western District
of Washington.

Page 1 – COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

BRETT & DAUGERT, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
300 NORTH COMMERCIAL ♦ P.O. BOX 5008
BELLINGHAM, WA 98227-5008
TELEPHONE: (360) 733-0212 ♦ FAX: (360) 647-1902
www.brettlaw.com

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ORIGINAL

1.4 Harold W. Dentinger and Jane Doe Dentinger constitute a marital community under the laws of the State of Washington and upon belief reside within the Western District of the State of Washington. Upon belief, Harold W. Dentinger was at the time of injuries an employee of the City of Seattle and/or an agent acting within his scope of his duties.

10 1.5 The Federal Court for the Western District of Washington has jurisdiction over
11 this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1331, 1343, 1367 and venue is properly set in the Western
12 District Federal Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C.1391.

1.6 This action is brought pursuant to the Fourth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth
Amendments to the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 7 of the Washington State
Constitution, 42 U.S.C. 1983, 1988, Washington State common law prohibiting assault, false
arrest and false imprisonment, and Washington common law negligence.

18 1.7 On April 2, 2003, Defendant City of Seattle was served with a Notice of Claim
19 and it has been more than sixty days since the claim was served.

2.1 On Thursday, September 5^h 2002 at approximately 8:40 P.M., Plaintiff parked his vehicle in the Seattle Central Parking Garage on the corner of Harvard Avenue and Pine Street in the Capital Hill district of the City of Seattle.

1 2.2 On Friday, September 6th 2002, Plaintiff returned to his vehicle at approximately
2 1:30 A.M. and decided to rest in his vehicle before operating it.

3 2.3 At approximately 3:00 A.M., Defendants Letizia and Defendant Dentinger
4 approached Plaintiff's vehicle. Defendants knocked on Plaintiff's vehicle's window. Plaintiff
5 unlocked his vehicle and Defendants immediately opened the vehicle door. Defendants ordered
6 Plaintiff out of vehicle.
7

8 2.3 Plaintiff stated he wanted to speak with his attorney and that he was going to use
9 his cell phone; Plaintiff reached for his cellular phone which was in clear view on the dash of his
10 car. Defendants grabbed Plaintiff and pulled him from his vehicle and assaulted Plaintiff.
11 Plaintiff was thrown to the ground, his head impacted the pavement, and Plaintiff was rendered
12 unconscious.
13

14 2.4 Plaintiff regained consciousness in a holding cell at the East Precinct on 12th
15 Avenue in Seattle, Washington. Plaintiff's head and shoulder were severely lacerated and
16 bleeding. Plaintiff had a black eye, his knees were scraped, and he was in severe pain. Plaintiff
17 again requested to speak with his lawyer and was denied.

18 2.5 Plaintiff requested medical attention and was denied. Plaintiff finally received
19 medical attention for his external laceration by the Seattle Fire Department. Plaintiff did not
20 receive medical care for his head injuries or any internal injuries.

21 2.6 Plaintiff was transported to the King County Jail facility on 5th Avenue, in Seattle
22 Washington. Plaintiff received one phone call and contacted his family. Plaintiff was then
23 processed into the King County Jail. Plaintiff was charged with Obstructing a Public Officer and
24 Resisting Arrest.
25

1 2.7 Plaintiff was placed in a cell; a nurse came and checked his exterior wounds but
2 did not treat him for any of his other injuries. Plaintiff's father posted bail and Plaintiff was
3 released from jail at approximately 9:30 A.M.

4 2.8 On Friday September 20, 2002, Plaintiff reported to his intake hearing.
5 Plaintiff's charges were dropped due to "insufficient evidence" and "lack of evidence of
6 wrongdoing."

7 2.9 All Defendants' actions were taken in concert.

8
9 III. CAUSE OF ACTION:

10 (VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S FEDERAL RIGHTS)

11 3.1 Defendants unlawfully and unconstitutionally seized Plaintiff without probable
12 cause or reasonable suspicion and unlawfully arrested, assaulted, and imprisoned him for a span
13 of several hours.

14 3.2 While under the legal and physical control of Defendants, Plaintiff was physically
15 injured and suffered extreme physical and emotional distress.

16 3.3 Defendants actions were taken intentionally and/or with deliberate disregard for
17 Plaintiffs rights.

18 3.4 Defendant City of Seattle ratified and/or approved the individual Defendants'
19 actions.

20 3.5 Defendants intentionally did not provide necessary medical treatment; which
21 caused Plaintiff significant pain and suffering and increased the likelihood of permanent
22 disability.
23
24
25

1 3.6 Defendants actions were taken intentionally and/or with deliberate disregard for
2 Plaintiffs rights.

3 3.7 The decision not to provide Plaintiff necessary medical treatment was made
4 pursuant to official City of Seattle policy.

5 3.9 All of Defendant's actions in denying plaintiff necessary medical care were made
6 in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United
7 States Constitution.

8 3.10 Defendants denied Plaintiff his right to counsel under the Sixth and Fourteenth
9 Amendments.

10 3.11 All of Defendants' actions were illegal actions made in violation of Plaintiff's
11 rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

12 3.12 All of Defendants' actions constituted violations of Plaintiffs federal legal rights
13 and are therefore actionable under 42 U.S.C. 1983.

14 3.13 All Defendants' actions were taken pursuant to official municipal policy or
15 custom.

16
17
18 IV. CAUSE OF ACTION:

19 (WASHINGTON STATE LAW CLAIMS)

20 4.1 Defendants' seizure of Plaintiff without probable cause or a warrant violated
21 defendant's rights under Article 1 of the Washington State Constitution, Section 7.

22 4.2 Defendants physical seizure, handcuffing, assault, loss of consciousness, and
23 other forms of torture were made intentionally, without consent or lawful authority and therefore
24 constituted common law assault and battery.

1 4.3 Defendants' attempted arrest and subsequent imprisonment of Plaintiff was
2 without probable cause, judicial order or legal excuse and therefore constituted false arrest and
3 false imprisonment.

4 4.4 Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care in their investigation with
5 him as a suspect. Defendants actions and inactions fell well below the standard of care owed
6 Plaintiff proximately causing him damage and making them liable for negligence.

7 4.5 Defendants refusal to provide Plaintiff with necessary medical care while he was
8 incarcerated violated Plaintiff's rights under the Revised Code of Washington Title 70, Chapter
9 48, Section 130.

10 4.6 Defendants decision to deny Plaintiff necessary medical care resulted in
11 Plaintiff's unnecessary pain and suffering and an increase in likelihood that his injuries would
12 become permanent.

13 4.7 Defendant's owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care while he was in custody.
14 Defendants actions and inactions fell well below the standard of care owed Plaintiff, proximately
15 causing him damage and making defendant liable for negligence.

16 4.8 All of individual Defendants' actions were made within the scope of their duties
17 as agents of defendant City of Seattle and the City is therefore liable under respondeat superior.

20 V. DAMAGES

21 5.1 As a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of Defendants, Plaintiff
22 sustained severe physical and mental pain and suffering and injury in an amount that will be
23 established at trial.

5.2 As a further direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to seek medical treatment and care, and will be required to seek future medical treatment and care, the exact amount of the expense for medical treatment and care will be established at the time of trial.

5.3 As a further direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of the Defendants, Plaintiff has sustained other general damages, including loss of enjoyment of life.

5.4 As a further direct and proximate result of the negligent acts of the Defendants, Plaintiff lost income, both past and future, the exact amount of which will be established at the time of trial.

5.5 As a further incurred legal defense costs in an amount to be proven at the time of trial.

III. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Defendants jointly and severed as follows:

1. For general damages including pain and suffering together with special damages for Plaintiff's reasonable and necessary hospital, doctor, and related treatment both past and future, the exact amount of which will be established at the time of trial;

2. For loss and impairment of Plaintiff's ability to enjoy life, the exact extent of which will be established at the time of trial;

3. For Plaintiff's lost income and lost earnings capacity, both past and future, the exact amount of which will be established at the time of trial;

1 4. For punitive damages against individual Defendants in an amount to be proven at
2 trial pursuant to federal law;

3 5. For actual attorneys fees and litigation costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1988;


4 6. For statutory attorneys fees and costs; and

5 7. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
6

7 DATED THIS 26 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2003.

8 BRETT & DAUGERT, PLLC

9
10 By


Breean L. Beggs, WSBA #20795
Attorney for Joseph M. Bayne